

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

Santa Rosa Plain

Draft 10-1-2012 (Incorporates recent BAP and Constituent Feedback)

Draft 6-12-2012 (Included BAP 6/7/2012 Feedback)

New text is underlined

Goal

The goal of the Plan is to locally manage and protect groundwater resources by a balanced group of stakeholders through non-regulatory measures to support all beneficial uses, including human, agriculture, and ecosystems, in an environmentally sound, economical, and equitable manner for present and future generations.

Basin Management Objectives

Integrated Groundwater Management

- Improve coordination and interaction between water resource management agencies
- Conjunctively manage surface water and groundwater to improve water supply availability and reliability
- Coordinate surface water and groundwater management with land use planning
- Foster shared management responsibilities among urban and rural stakeholders
- Further cultivate state and federal partnerships for program implementation

Stakeholder Involvement and Public Awareness

Provide an ongoing forum, information and current media to educate and improve the public and stakeholder awareness of water and groundwater supplies and management issues, to help secure local support of the plan, and to ensure collaboration in addressing future challenges during program implementation

- Plan and program information on surface and groundwater information are readily accessible to the public through the use of the internet and other public forums
- Public outreach provides information that is accessible to individuals with different levels of education and technical knowledge
- Public input received and information disseminated during periodic public meetings at key milestones
- Public well-informed on current surface water and groundwater supplies and planning activities

Groundwater Protection & Recharge

- *Recharge Area Protection* - Identify and map groundwater recharge areas, encourage the protection of recharge areas to preserve natural recharge and groundwater quality, including low impact development approaches designed to mimic natural hydrologic conditions, and provide groundwater recharge area maps to local agencies for planning

- *Recharge Enhancement* – Consider and evaluate, and where appropriate promote, activities to enhance groundwater recharge to provide increased water supply reliability while protecting and improving groundwater quality for different scales and land uses
- *Wells* – Encourage permitting of the construction, placement, reconstruction and destruction of all wells to provide protection of groundwater resources from pollution or contamination and to reduce the number of abandoned wells

Conservation & Efficiency

Promote actions to conserve and reduce water usage and increase water and energy efficiency by urban and non-urban water users

Water Reuse

Increase water reuse in a safe and environmentally sound manner to enhance water supply reliability and reduce demands on groundwater and surface water resources

Monitoring & Modeling

The plan should have consistent and ongoing spatially adequate data collection, data management, and monitoring programs and analytical tools including:

- *Groundwater Elevations* - Measure groundwater elevations and foster activities aimed at maintaining groundwater elevations to support all beneficial uses and protecting against land subsidence and loss of groundwater storage capacity
- *Surface Water-Groundwater Interaction* - Evaluate surface water and groundwater interactions and foster protection against adverse interactions between groundwater and surface water flows, thereby protecting and enhancing aquatic ecosystems
- *Water Quality* – Monitor groundwater quality and foster activities aimed at protection and improvement of groundwater quality for beneficial uses
- *Land Subsidence* – Monitor for land subsidence and foster activities aimed at protecting against groundwater extraction-related land subsidence
- *Rainfall* – develop a rainfall monitoring network to improve the water budget through a better-informed understanding of rainfall distribution and density
- *Modeling* - The surface water/groundwater model should be maintained and updated at an appropriate frequency based on current data to track and assess the water budget including inputs, outputs and change in storage, and to support and enhance science-based decision-making

Climate Change Planning

Integrate a range of future weather scenarios into planning to ensure adequate water supply reliability and drought resiliency in a changing climate

- Surface water and groundwater supply planning options incorporated into existing and future local, basin, regional and countywide plans to help address climate change challenges
- Major elements and challenges of climate change are understood by a well-informed public